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REMARKS

By this amendment, claim 11 has been canceled, claims 12-22 have been amended, and claim 23 has been added. No new matter has been added by way of the present amendment.

Claims 12-23 are currently pending in the application. Reconsideration and allowance of all of the claims are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

Claim 11 has been replaced by claim 23 to clarify what the Applicants believe to be their invention. Claims 12-18, 20 and 22 which previously depended from claim 11 have been amended to depend from claim 23.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 11-22 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Wubbolts. The Examiner also rejected claims 11-22 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Nishijima. Applicants respectfully submit that Examiner's rejections have been addressed and overcome by the present amendment.

Referring to the rejection, Examiner states "[c]laims 11-22 are product by process claims. Product-by Process claims are not limited to the manipulations of the recited steps, only the structure implied..." Applicants submit that Examiner's rejection is moot in view of the present amendment, as claims 12-23 as amended are not in product-by-process form.

In addition, Applicants respectfully submit that the references cited by the Examiner, Wubbolts and Nishijima, do not teach a family of snowmobile platform components according to the claimed invention, either alone or in combination.

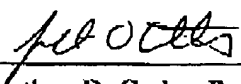
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In view of the above remarks, the Applicant respectfully submits that all of the currently pending claims are allowable and that the entire application is in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable to place the application in a better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


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